

to this island, previously unvisited by ornithologists, from June 30 to November 6, 1927, in the interests of the California Academy of Sciences, and secured a collection of over 550 birds and much information of value. Mr. Swarth lists 116 species in his report but this also includes material from Akutan and Unalaska obtained on the way north. He discusses the Glaucous Gulls, Purple Sandpipers, Winter Wrens, and Savannah Sparrows at some length, presenting opinions which will be of great value to the A. O. U. Committee on Classification and Nomenclature.

In the introductory pages the author discusses the avifauna of the Aleutian Region as a whole and calls attention to its importance as an area of differentiation, and also to the fact that in many groups we have a distinct subspecies of a wide ranging species occurring side by side with a form that we regard as specifically, or even generically, different, although obviously of common origin. In considering the Palaearctic element in northwestern North America he lists no less than 44 species that have wandered over from Asia and considers that many, now regarded as merely casual, will be found to be of regular occurrence. Conversely he lists nineteen Nearctic species which have wandered over to Asia.

He endorses William Palmer's suggestion that the Aleutian Islands, those of Bering Sea, and the coast regions of Alaska and Northern Asia constitute a distinct zoological subregion which he called the Aleutican (Avifauna of the Pribilof Islands, 1899). A photograph of Mr. Harrold forms the frontispiece to the report.

Mr. Swarth has made a valuable contribution to Aleutian and Alaskan ornithology and a worthy memorial to an able field naturalist—W. S.

Murphy on Birds and Hurricanes.—The tropical hurricane of late August, 1933, had an extraordinary effect in scattering sea birds throughout various parts of the eastern United States. Leach's Petrels in large numbers were distributed throughout central New York and Pennsylvania. One or more Wilson's Petrels were taken on Adirondack lakes and elsewhere. Still more remarkable, however, was the transportation of a Madeira Petrel to Ottawa, as recorded by Mr. Taverner in the January Auk, and the capture of a South Trinidad Petrel, *Pterodroma arminjoniana*, at Ithaca. The last constitutes a first record for North America. (see p. 417)

Dr. Murphy traces the course of the cyclonic disturbance from its birthplace near the Cape Verde Islands and concludes that the two species of sea birds from the eastern tropical Atlantic had probably been carried within the "eye" of the storm for a very long distance, while the North Atlantic species of Petrels had been carried in at right angles to its path by the rotary draft blowing toward the center. The author also suggests that an inquiry to correlate the North American records of tropical sea birds with the paths of tropical cyclonic storms throughout a long period might be highly illuminating. In fact, he has completed such a study since the appearance of the present note.—J. P. CHAPIN.

¹ Stray Sea Birds and Atlantic Storm Tracks. By Robert Cushman Murphy. The Geographical Review, January 1934. Pp. 151-152.